

Thomas Edward.



DEATH OF THOMAS EDWARD.
~~Standard~~ April 28th 1864

Thomas Edward, the Banff Naturalist, who attained a wide fame through the story of his life written by Mr. Smiles, died yesterday after a prolonged illness. Edward was born on Christmas-day, 1814, at Gosport, Portsmouth, where his father, a private in the Fifeshire Militia, was stationed after returning from the Peninsular War. The elder Edward, who was a handloom weaver, subsequently settled in Aberdeen. Early in life Thomas showed indications of a great love of animals, insects, and creatures of every description. He made extensive excursions in search of specimens, and many amusing anecdotes are told to illustrate his extreme

Yours most affectionately

Thomas Edward
Banff

Rev J. Ellis

ledge. When he married, at 20, his wages were only £10 a week, and he had to work till late all the year round; but he often spent nights in the fields and caves, searching for insects and strange flowers. For 15 years Edward carried on most of his researches by night, and he had many narrow escapes through the eagerness with which he pursued his object. He completed a splendid collection, and in 1846 exhibited it in Aberdeen. The Exhibition was a failure, and he had to sell the collection for 20*l.* to defray the expenses. He set to work to form another collection, and was most successful. His researches added greatly to the knowledge of Natural History, as he embodied the new facts in papers written to scientific magazines. In 1866 Edward was elected a member of several leading scientific societies. Latterly he has acted as curator of Banff Museum. After the publication of his biography by Mr. Smiles Edward's genius was publicly recognised by a presentation of 333*l.* made to him in Aberdeen, and he was awarded by the Queen a pension of 50*l.* a year.

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